29. A NOTE ON THE SYNONYMY OF *HYPTIANTHERA* WT. & ARN. AND *PETUNGA* DC. WITH *HYPOBATHRUM* BL. (RUBIACEAE)

Recently Robbrecht (1980) postulated the tribe Hypobathreae near Gardenieae and coffeeae in the subfamily Pavettoideae of the family Rubiaceae. He placed in it several genera of which *Hyptianthera* wt. & Arn., *Petunga* DC. and *Morindopsis* Hook.f. occur in India. He treated *Petunga* DC. as synonymous with *Hypobathrum* Bl., as considered by Bakhuizen f. (1965).

The genera *Petunga* DC. (1830) and *Hyptianthera* Wt. & Arn. (1834) are treated as distinct by De Candolle (1830), Hooker f. (1873, 1880), Schumann (1891) and others. Workers on Indian regional floras followed them. Hooker f. (1880) further introduced the genus *Hypobathrum* Bl. in key to the genera of Rubiaceae "because it most probably occurs in the Malay Peninsula, though it is as yet unrecorded."

On study of the genera *Petunga* DC. and *Hyptianthera* Wt. & Arn., the author of the present note hesitated to recognize their generic distinction and was inclined to treat them as the same genus. On consulting literature, he was surprised to find that Kurz (1877) had more than a century ago merged *Hyptianthera* Wt. & Arn. with *Hypobathrum* Bl. and that Hook.f. (1880) and Robbrecht (1980) probably overlooked this merger as they were silent about such a treatment of the genera. Very recently Bakhuizen f. (1965) in Backer and Bakhuizen, Fl. Java. merged *Petunga* DC. with *Hypobathrum* Bl. This treatment also appears to have been overlooked by the recent Indian workers in their respective works. The present worker fully agrees with Kurz (1877), Bakhiuzen f. (1965) and Robbrecht (1980), and considers that the merger of these three genera is taxonomically justified. As they did not give a full synonymy it is worthwhile to present it here.

Hypobathrum Bl. Bijdr. 107. 1826; DC. Prodr. 4: 459. 1830; Miq. Fl. Ind. Bat. 2 : 236. 1861 & in Ann. Mus. Lugd. Bat. 4: 243. 1869; Kurz, For. Fl. Brit. Burma 2: 50. 1877; Hook.f. in Benth. & Hook.f. Gen. Pl. 2: 93. 1873 & Fl. Brit. Ind. 3: 19. 1880 (in key); Schumann in Eng. & Prantl, Nat. Pflanzenfam. IV. 4: 80. 1891; Robbrecht in Bull. Jard. Bot. Nat. Belg. 50: 75. 1980.

Petunga DC. Prodr. 4: 398. 1830; Walp. Ann. 2: 792. 1843; Miq. Fl. Ind. Bat. 2: 200. 1861 & Ann. Mus. Lugd. Bat. 4: 130 & 269. 1869; Hook.f. in Benth. & Hook.f. Gen. Pl. 2: 93. 1873 & Fl. Brit. Ind. 3: 120. 1880; Schumann in Eng. & Prantl., Nat. Pflazenfam. IV. 4: 79. 1891.

Higinsia Bl. Bijdr. 988. 1826, non Pers.

Hyptianthera Wt. & Arn. Prodr. 399. 1834; Hook.f. in Benth. & Hook.f. Gen. Pl. 2: 94. 1873 & Fl. Brit. Ind. 3: 121. 1880; Walp. Rep. 2: 518. 1843; Schumann in Eng. & Prantl., Nat. Pflazenfam. iv. 4: 80. 1891; Robbrecht in Bull. Jard. Bot. Nat. Belg. 50: 75. 1980.

Type: *H. frutescens* Bl.

Distribution: About 10 species; India, Bangladesh to Phillippine Islands; 2 species in India.

Key to the Indian Species

Flowers in dense clusters; drupes berry-like, sessile..... ..... *H. strictum* (Wt. & Arn.) Kurz. Flowers in spike like racemes; drupes berry-like, stalked.....
..... *H. racemosum* (Roxb.) Kurz.

February 26, 1988. D. B. DEB

30. AN ENUMERATION OF FERN-ALLIES OF NAINI TAL (WESTERN HIMALAYA)

Duthie (1906) was the first to catalogue the ferns and fern- allies of Kumaun and adjacent portions of Garhwal and Tibet based on the collections made by Strachey and Winterbottom during the years 1846-1849 covering a total area of 18,400 sq kms. From this vast area, a total of 13 species belonging to 4 genera of fern- allies were recorded. Out of 13 species of fern-allies, 3 species namely *Selaginella chrysocaulos* (Hook. et Grev.) Spring, *S. pallidissima* Spring and *Equisetum diffusum* D.Don were reported from Naini Tal. Since then, no further work on the fern-allies of Naini Tal has been carried out so far.

Although the fern flora of Naini Tal is very well explored by a number of workers none of them have studied the fern-allies of Naini Tal. In order to fill up this lacuna, the present study was initiated to collect and study the fern-allies of Naini Tal and its adjacent areas, covering an altitudinal range from 900- 2611 m during the last three years. In all, 3 genera and 7 species belonging to 3 families were collected from Naini Tal and its adjacent portions. These species